

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512**NOTICE OF RECEIPT
APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
EAST ALTAMONT ENERGY CENTER
Docket No. 01-AFC-4****PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

On March 29, 2001, East Altamont Energy Center, LLC (the applicant), a wholly owned subsidiary of Calpine Corporation, filed an Application for Certification (AFC) for a nominal 1,100 MW power plant called the East Altamont Energy Center (EAEC). The proposal is for a natural-gas-fired combined-cycle generating facility with a 230-kilovolt (kV) switchyard and approximately 0.5 miles of new 230-kV transmission lines. The applicant's proposed site lies within a 174-acre parcel of land under the applicant's control, located in unincorporated Alameda County, approximately 1 mile west of the San Joaquin County line and 1 mile southeast of the Contra Costa County line. The site is bordered by Byron Bethany Road to the north, Kelso Road to the south, and Mountain House Road to the west. If built, the plant would occupy up to 55 acres near the center of the property, with the remainder available for lease as agricultural land.

The switchyard would function as an extension of Western's existing Tracy substation, located across Mountain House Road and immediately to the west of the project's site. Natural gas for the facility would be delivered via approximately 1.4 miles of new 20-inch pipeline that will connect to Pacific Gas and Electric's (PG&E) existing gas transmission line southeast of the Bethany gas compressor station located to the west of the site.

The applicant plans to supply the plant's cooling and process water requirements (roughly 4,600 acre-feet per year) with raw (i.e. untreated) water from the Byron Bethany Irrigation District, via a 2.1-mile pipeline. As the community of Mountain House is developed and recycled water becomes available, recycled water would supplement raw water and result in a reduction in raw water use. Potable water for the plant would be provided by a new onsite well or connections to a domestic supplier.

The project as proposed includes a zero-liquid discharge system designed to eliminate off-site disposal of wastewater. Process wastewater would be reclaimed and reused, to the extent possible. Cooling water would be cycled three to eight times (depending on water quality) in the cooling tower; wastewater would then be directed to onsite evaporation ponds. "Sanitary" wastewater from sinks and basins would be discharged to an onsite septic tank and leach field.

Associated equipment would include emission control systems necessary to meet the proposed emission limits. NO_x emissions will be controlled using a combination of low NO_x combustors in the combustion turbine generators (CTGs) and selective catalytic reduction systems in the heat recovery steam generators (HRSGs). A carbon monoxide catalyst would be installed in the HRSGs to limit CO emissions from the CTGs.

The project is estimated to have a capital cost of between \$400 and \$500 million. The applicant plans to begin construction in June 2002 and complete construction in June 2004. The project would provide for a peak of approximately 400 construction jobs over a 2-year period and up to 40 skilled positions throughout the life of the project.

LEAD AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY

The California Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater, proposed for construction in California. The Energy Commission's facility certification process carefully examines public health and safety, environmental impacts and engineering aspects of proposed power plants, and all related facilities such as electric transmission lines, natural gas pipelines, access roads, and water pipelines. The Energy Commission is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

In addition, the plant's interconnection with Western's substation triggers the need for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Western will be the lead agency under NEPA and will be working jointly with the Energy Commission in the evaluation of this project.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The purpose of the AFC process is to enable the Energy Commission to assess the project's impact on environmental quality, electrical system reliability, public health, and safety. During the 12- month period (after data adequacy has been achieved), the Energy Commission will conduct a number of public workshops and hearings to determine whether the project should be approved, and if so, under what set of conditions. These workshops will provide members of the public, as well as local, state, and federal agencies, the opportunity to ask questions and provide input about the proposed project. The Energy Commission will issue notices for these workshops and hearings, normally 14 days, but in no case later than 10 days prior to the meeting.

If you want information on how you can participate in the Energy Commission's review of the project, please contact Ms. Roberta Mendonca, the Energy Commission's Public Adviser, at (916) 654-4489 or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228; or by email at pao@energy.state.ca.us. Technical or project schedule questions should be directed to Cheri Davis, Siting Project Manager, at (916) 657-4394, or by email at cdavis@energy.state.ca.us. The status of the project, an electronic copy of the application for certification, copies of notices, and other relevant documents are also available on the Energy Commission's Internet web site at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/index.html>. News media inquiries should be directed to Assistant Director, Claudia Chandler, at (916) 654-4989.

This notice of receipt has been mailed to all parties that have requested to be placed on the mailing list during prefilings and to property owners located adjacent to the project site and any of the project-related facilities. By being on the mailing list, you will receive notices of all project-related activities and notices when documents related to the project's evaluation are available for review. If you want your name removed from the mailing list, please contact one of our project secretaries, at (916) 654-4237.

AVAILABILITY OF THE AFC

Copies of the AFC are available for public inspection at the following public libraries:

Tracy Branch Library
20 E. Eaton Ave.
Tracy, CA 95376

Brentwood Branch Library
751 3rd St.
Brentwood, CA 94513

Livermore Civic Center Library
1000 S. Livermore Ave.
Livermore, CA 94550

Copies are also available at the Energy Commission's Library in Sacramento, the California State Library in Sacramento, and at public libraries in Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, Fresno, and Eureka. In addition, copies will be distributed to those public agencies, which would normally have jurisdiction except for the Energy Commission's exclusive authority to certify sites and related facilities.

DATE: _____

ROBERT L. THERKELSEN, Deputy Director
Systems Assessment & Facilities Siting